

Visitors to Red China

See 3 Yank Prisoners

STATINTL

Shanghai, Sept. 19 (Reuters).—A group of young Americans who are defying a State Department ban on travel to Communist China today visited a Yonkers, N. Y., man and two American priests held prisoner by the Mao Tse-tung regime.

The prisoners are Hugh Francis Redmond Jr., 37, of 8 Floral Lane, Yonkers, described as "100% American and hard as nails" by his visitors; and the Rev. Joseph McCormack, 64, a Catholic missionary from Ossining, and the Rev. John Paul Wagner, 50, a Franciscan from Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Patricia Tyler, one of the visitors, said Redmond was hostile and cold throughout the interview. He was suspicious of the Americans because he could not understand how they had been allowed to visit Red China.

He Isn't Brainwashed

But, she added, the Americans who saw Redmond were convinced he had not been brainwashed or converted to Communism.

Redmond was sentenced to life by the Communists in 1954 on a spying charge.

(The Reds said at the time of Redmond's sentencing that

Father McCormack, a Maryknoll priest who was sentenced to five years in late 1955 on a spying charge, appeared bewildered and nervous during the interview. He said he had never had any interest in politics.



Hugh F. Redmond, Jr.
"Hard as nails"

he had spied for the U. S. since 1946 while posing as an employee of an American business firm. The U. S. State Department described him as a "legitimate businessman.")

Mrs. Tyler said Redmond denied having belong to the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency, but was "evasive" when asked what he had been doing between 1945 and his arrest in 1951.

Redmond looked healthy and a little younger than his years, reported Mrs. Tyler, a New Yorker. He said there had been no attempt to convert him to Communism since his arrest. Mrs. Tyler said Redmond did not want the visitors to do anything for him in the U. S., such as visiting his family.

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